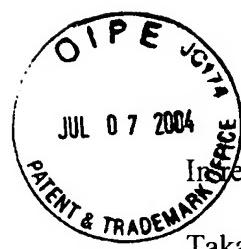


JRW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of : Confirmation No. 7179  
Takayuki SAITO et al. : Docket No. 2003\_1585A  
Serial No. 10/695,826 :  
Filed October 30, 2003 :

SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS  
AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- [X] each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (*for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003*),
- [ ] each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/\_\_\_\_\_;  
and/or
- [ ] each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

- 1b.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted  
after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:  
(1)  the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**  
(2)  the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:  
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:  
**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**  
**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified
- a.  that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
  - b.  that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3.  Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
  - a.  a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b.  a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c.  the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d.  the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
  - e.  the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5.  A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Takayuki SAITO et al.

By Michael S. Huppert  
Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
July 7, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: July 7, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2003\_1585ASERIAL NO.  
10/695,826APPLICANT  
Takayuki SAITO et al.FILING DATE  
October 30, 2003

GROUP

JUL 07 2004



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	2003/0041968	3/2003	Saito et al.			
	AB	4,968,375	11/1990	Sato et al.			
	AG	6,669,809	12/2003	Hashimoto et al.			
	AD	2001/0037858	11/2001	Taniyama et al.			
	AE	2003/0024645	2/2003	Orii et al.			
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	03/023825	3/2003	WO			
	AK	2002-100603	4/2002	JP			Abstract
	AL	2000-82691	3/2000	JP			Abstract
	AM	10-12523	1/1998	JP			Abstract
	AN						

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED